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DONALD DUCK
AND FRIENDS

Well, it seems just yesterday that I was introducing the first Gemstone-published issues of *Donald Duck and Friends* and *Mickey Mouse and Friends* in the Halloween issues of those books, and now here I am writing the intro for this year's Halloween issues. How time does fly!

It's been a fun and rewarding year for me and I trust it has been the same for all you readers. Thanks to your input we've learned some interesting things about what you like and don't like and about how you'd like the books to change. In the case of *Donald Duck and Friends,* so many have expressed the desire to see vintage Carl Barks ten-pagers in these pages that we had no choice but to accede. Look for those to begin next month. As for *Mickey Mouse and Friends,* you have likewise voiced your request to see more classic material by Carl Fallberg, Paul Murry, and others. And you'll start to see some of them in that title, beginning next month.

But getting back to our Halloween issue, we have two fearsome features to put you in the mood for tricks and treats. "I, Monster" by Janet Gilbert is destined to go down as a creepy classic. Its feel is admirably enhanced by Daniel Branca's moody drawings. He was definitely in the groove when he did this one. "Werewolf Worries" is brought to you by the McGreals, who also penned our highly acclaimed Shambor series. But to find out what happens to poor Goofy, you'll be obliged to pick up next month's comic for part two, making ye editor the true fiend for this issue.

Our wrap-up story is not a Halloween tale, but it is by the very talented writer John Lustig, whose work hasn't appeared frequently enough in the Gemstone books. We hope to rectify that in the months to come.

—John Clark

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **I, MONSTER**
Story: Janet Gilbert
Art: Daniel Branca
Color: Egmont & Marie Javins
Lettering: Sue Kolberg

Mickey Mouse **WEREWOLF WORRIES Part I**
Story: Pat and Carol McGreal
Art: Rodriques
Color: Russell Miller
Lettering: Sue Kolberg

Donald Duck **HOME-FRONT HERO**
Story: John Lustig
Art: Santiago Scalabroni
Color: Janice Miller
Lettering: Travis Seitler

Front cover art by Daniel Branca, color by Egmont & Susan Daigle-Leach

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF OCTOBER 13TH
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Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK and FRIENDS

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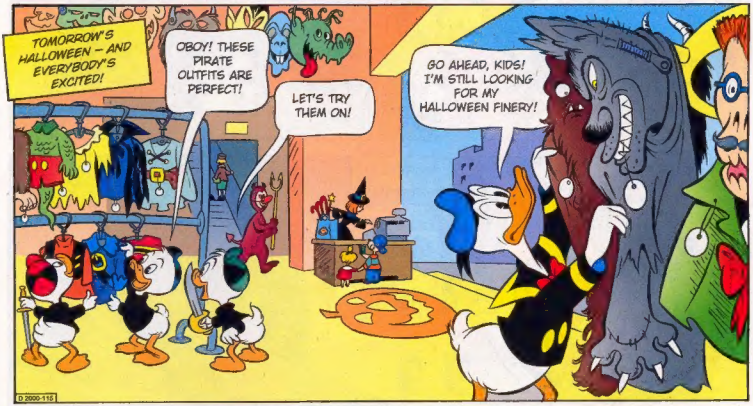
Walt Disney's

DONALD DUCK in I, MONSTER


TOMORROW'S HALLOWEEN — AND EVERYBODY'S EXCITED!
OBOY! THESE PIRATE OUTFITS ARE PERFECT!
LET'S TRY THEM ON!
GO AHEAD, KIDS! I'M STILL LOOKING FOR MY HALLOWEEN FINERY!
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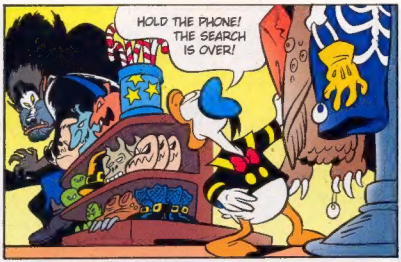
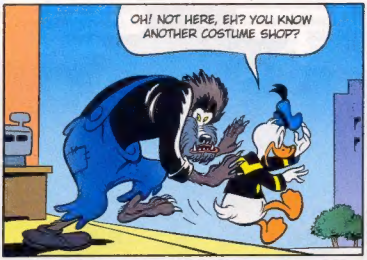
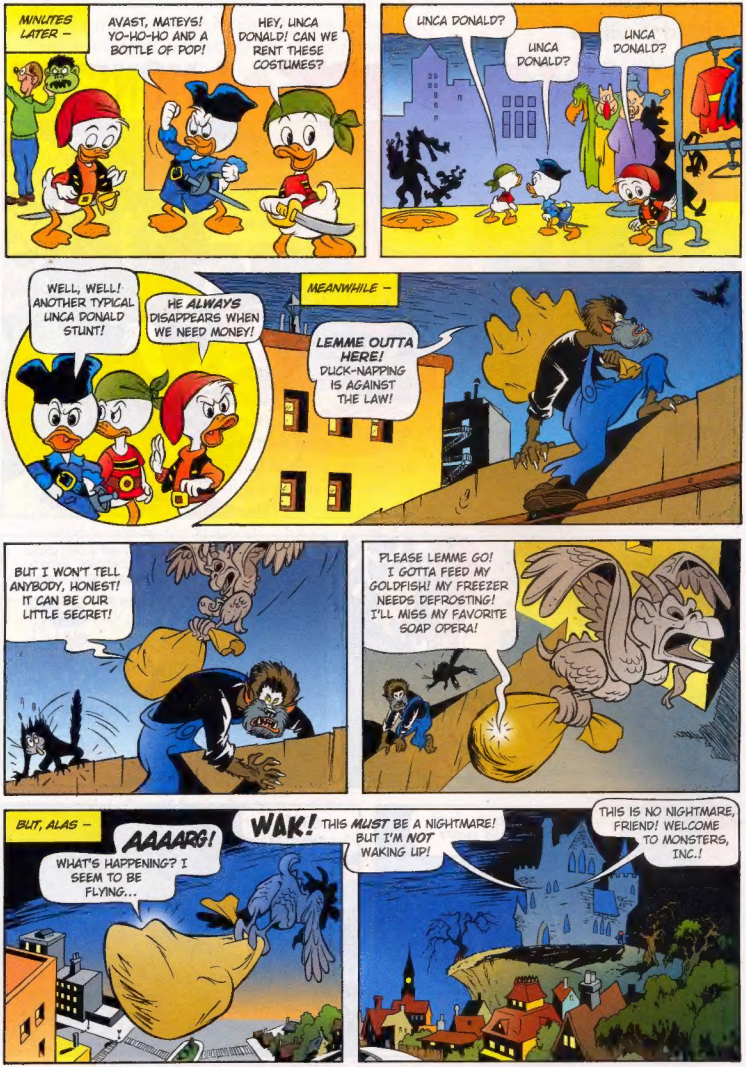
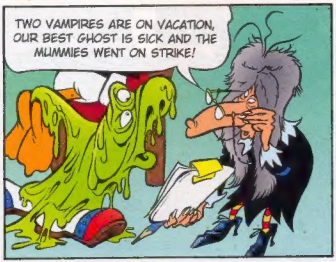
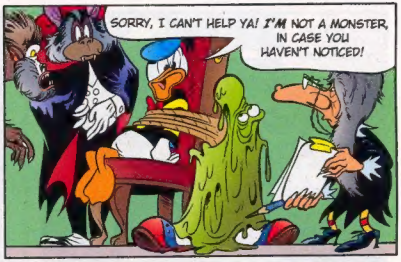




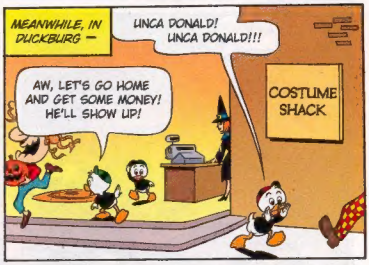

MINUTES LATER –
AVAST, MATEYS! YO-HO-HO AND A BOTTLE OF POP!
HEY, LINCA DONALD! CAN WE RENT THESE COSTUMES?
LINCA DONALD?
LINCA DONALD?
LINCA DONALD?
WELL, WELL! ANOTHER TYPICAL LINCA DONALD STUNT!
HE ALWAYS DISAPPEARS WHEN WE NEED MONEY!
MEANWHILE –
LEMME OUTTA HERE! DUCK-NAPPING IS AGAINST THE LAW!
BUT I WON'T TELL ANYBODY, HONEST! IT CAN BE OUR LITTLE SECRET!
PLEASE LEMME GO! I GOTTA FEED MY GOLDFISH! MY FREEZER NEEDS DEFROSTING! I'LL MISS MY FAVORITE SOAP OPERA!
BUT, ALAS –
AAAARG!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? I SEEM TO BE FLYING...
WAK!
THIS MUST BE A NIGHTMARE! BUT I'M NOT WAKING UP!
THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE, FRIEND! WELCOME TO MONSTERS, INC.!

M-M-MONSTERS, INC.? BUT WHADDAYA WANT WITH ME?
TOMORROW'S HALLOWEEN, AND WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONSTERS!
INDEED!


TWO VAMPIRES ARE ON VACATION, OUR BEST GHOST IS SICK AND THE MUMMIES WENT ON STRIKE!


SORRY, I CAN'T HELP YA! I'M NOT A MONSTER, IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED!

NO! BUT YOU COULD BE...
:-SHIVER! SHUDDER!:-


MEANWHILE, IN DUCKBURG —
UNCA DONALD! UNCA DONALD!!!
AW, LET'S GO HOME AND GET SOME MONEY! HE'LL SHOW UP!
COSTUME SHACK

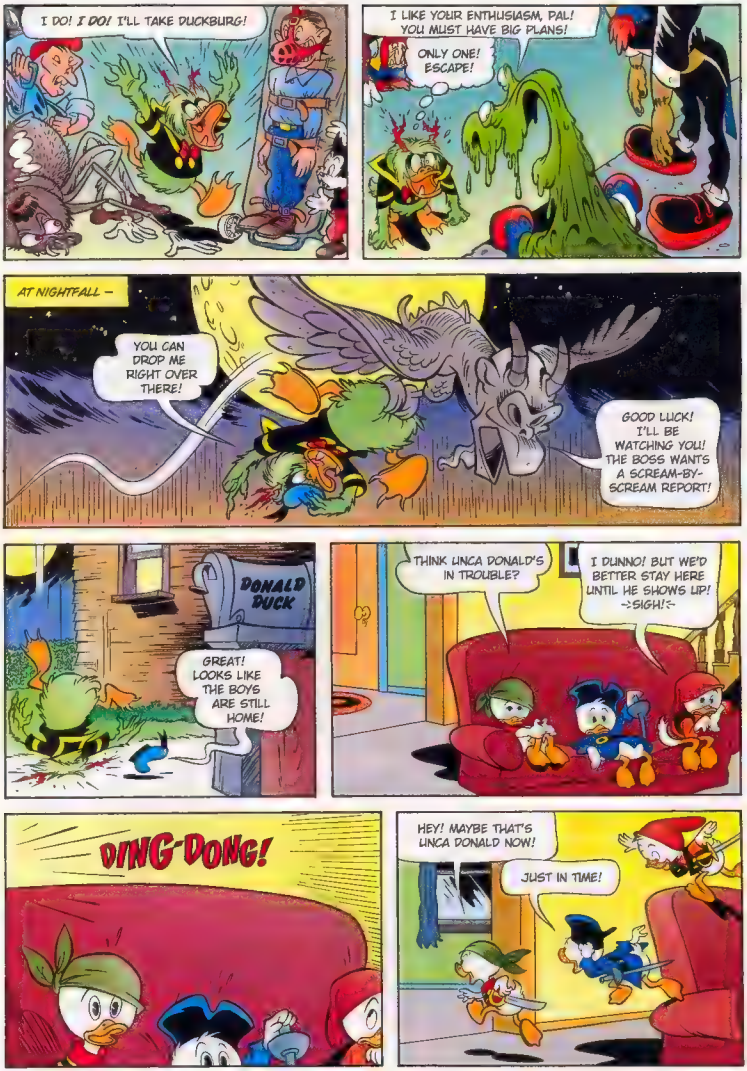
HE'S PROBABLY IN A JAM...
...AS USUAL! HMPH!
INDEED —
PLEASE DON'T CHANGE MY LOOKS! I CAN'T GET A DATE AS IT IS!
MAYBE HE'S RIGHT, BOSS! HE *IS* AWFULLY UGLY ALREADY!
AND HOW! BUT WE *STILL* BETTER MONSTERFY HIM!
GO AHEAD, GERTIE! DO YOUR STUFF!
CAT'S TOOTH, RAT'S TAIL, NUT AND BERRY,
...SCARY!!!
ZAP!
AHHH! MAKING A MONSTER IS SUCH *SATISFYING* WORK!
BEATS FLIPPING BURGERS AT McDUCKALD'S! HEEE!

EEEEEEEEEEEEK!!!
LOVELY WORK, GERTIE! HE'S A MONSTER FROM HIS ICKY HEAD TO HIS GNARLY TOENAILS!
HEY!
DON'T I GET A LOOK? WHERE'S THE MIRROR IN THIS JOINT?
SORRY! WE HAVE NO MIRRORS IN MONSTER MANSION!
WE'D SCARE OURSELVES SILLY IF WE DID!
NOW IT'S TIME FOR MONSTER SCHOOL! ARE YOU READY?
PFFFT! DO I HAVE A CHOICE?
HERE HE IS, BOYS! NOW MAKE A MONSTER OF HIM!
WITH PLEASURE, BOSS! HEH, HEH, HEH!
PLEASE BE GENTLE! TOO MUCH STRESS MAKES ME BREAK OUT IN NASTY SPOTS!
DON'T WORRY! THAT'S A PLUS IN OUR BUSINESS!

LESSON 1 —
THIS STUNT ALWAYS SCARES 'EM SILLY! JUST JUMP OUT AND ROAR! OKAY?
OKAY!
ROOOOAR!!!!
GOOD VOLUME, GREAT JUMPING! NICE SNEER, TOO!
LESSON 2 —
WALK LIKE THIS AND THE GIRLS WILL SCREAM! CAN YOU DO IT?
I'LL TRY!
HOW'S THIS?
SUPERB! YOU MOVE LIKE A BALLET DANCER — WITH BROKEN LEGS!
LESSON 3 —
FOR THE BEST SPOOKY SOUND, HOWL FROM YOUR DIAPHRAGM!
OOOOOOOOOOOOOO...
GOTCHA!
OOOOOOOOOOOOOO...
EXCELLENT TONE! YOU'RE A NATURAL, DUCK!
MANY LESSONS LATER —
CONGRATULATIONS, DUCK! YOU PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS! YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW!
MY FAMILY WILL BE SOOOO PROUD!
GET READY TO TERRIFY, DUCK! YOU'RE ON A TEST RUN TONIGHT!

TONIGHT? NO WAY! I'M EXHAUSTED! I NEED SOME TIME OFF!
OH, YEAH? I'LL GIVE YOU TIME OFF, YOU CHEEKY LITTLE —
BOSS! STOP! HE'S YOUR MONSTER, NOT YOUR SLAVE!
THAT'S WHY THE MUMMIES WENT ON STRIKE, REMEMBER?
-SIGH!- THE MONSTER BUSINESS JUST AIN'T WHAT IT USED TO BE!
SHOW HIM TO HIS DUNGEON, GERTIE!
LATER THAT NIGHT —
I CAN'T BE A MONSTER! WHAT WILL DAISY SAY? I GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE!
A PHONE! YIPPEE! I'LL CALL FOR HELP!
THE COPS WILL BUST THIS PLACE WIDE OPEN! I'LL BE A HERO!

MONSTERS, INC., TRANSYLVANIA DIVISION! TO WHICH VAMPIRE CAN I DIRECT YOUR CALL?
WHAT???
STUPID MONSTERS! WHY DO THEY HAFTA BE SO ORGANIZED?
SLAM!
MEANWHILE –
GEE! LINCA DONALD'S STILL NOT HOME!
WHERE COULD HE BE?
MAYBE HE'S JUST PULLING A HALLOWEEN PRANK ON US!
YEAH, MAYBE! >SWALLOW!<
THE NEXT DAY –
HAPPY HALLOWEEN, EVERYBODY! LISTEN UP WHILE GERTIE GIVES YOU TONIGHT'S ASSIGNMENTS!
VAMPIRES, TAKE ON SNOOTYVILLE! YOU LIKE SCARING RICH PEOPLE!
GHOSTS, GO TO DUCKY FALLS! LOTS OF LITTLE KIDS THERE!
WEREWOLVES, STICK TO THE SUBURBS! CONCENTRATE ON SUPERMARKET PARKING LOTS!
NOW WHO WANTS DUCKBURG?


I DO! I DO! I'LL TAKE DUCKBURG!
I LIKE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, PAL! YOU MUST HAVE BIG PLANS!
ONLY ONE! ESCAPE!
AT NIGHTFALL —
YOU CAN DROP ME RIGHT OVER THERE!
GOOD LUCK! I'LL BE WATCHING YOU! THE BOSS WANTS A SCREAM-BY-SCREAM REPORT!
DONALD DUCK
GREAT! LOOKS LIKE THE BOYS ARE STILL HOME!
THINK UNCA DONALD'S IN TROUBLE?
I DUNNO! BUT WE'D BETTER STAY HERE UNTIL HE SHOWS UP! -SIGH!-
DING-DONG!
HEY! MAYBE THAT'S UNCA DONALD NOW!
JUST IN TIME!

HI, KIDS! HAPPY HALLOWEEN!
EEEEEEEEEEK!
KIDS! IT'S ME! LINCA DONALD! SHUT UP AND LISTEN TO
EEEEEEEEEEK!
SLAM!
WAY TO GO! YOU SCARED THE PINFEATHERS OFF THOSE KIDS!
UNFORTUNATELY! HMPH!
DON'T BE SILLY! MONSTERS ARE ALWAYS SCARY!
OH, YEAH?
DONALD DUCK
THEN MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE!
VERY SOON—
O HAPPY HALLOWEEN, TO ALL THE LOVELY KIDDIES...
MOMMY, LOOK! IT'S A NICE MONSTER!
HOW VERY... STRANGE! I THOUGHT MONSTERS WERE ALWAYS SCARY!

NOT ALWAYS, MADAM! SOME OF US ARE RATHER SWEET!
WHY, THANK YOU! :-GIGGLE!:-
MY! WHAT A NICE MAN, I MEAN, MONSTER!
:-GASP!:- NICE MONSTER? IT'S A TRAVESTY!
BOSS! BOSS! THAT NEW GUY'S OUT OF CONTROL!
REALLY? IS HE TOO SCARY?
WHAT?? HE'S TOO NICE??? FIRE HIM AT ONCE!
THE NERVE! HE'S GIVING MONSTERS A GOOD NAME!
THE BOSS NO LONGER REQUIRES YOUR SERVICES, CHUMP! IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE FIRED!
I AM?
HEY! WHAT ABOUT MY PAYCHECK?
AW, WHO CARES? I'M FREE! I'M FREE! I'M DONALD DUCK AGAIN!

BUT HOW DO I CONVINCE THE BOYS OF THAT FACT?
HMMMM! THEY'LL LISTEN IF THEY CAN'T SEE ME...
HUEY? IT'S UNCA DONALD! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED TO...
...MEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEE!!!
AND SO --
OUR UNCA NEEDS -- HELP! CAN YOU REALLY BEAUTIFY ANYBODY?
THE BEAUTY FACTORY
BUT OF COURSE! WE SPECIALIZE IN MAKEOVERS!
EEEEEEEEEEK!
EEEK! EEEK! EEEK!
DON'T WORRY, UNCA DONALD! THE WITCH PROMISED HER SPELL WILL WEAR OFF...
...IN ANOTHER MONTH OR SO! GULP!

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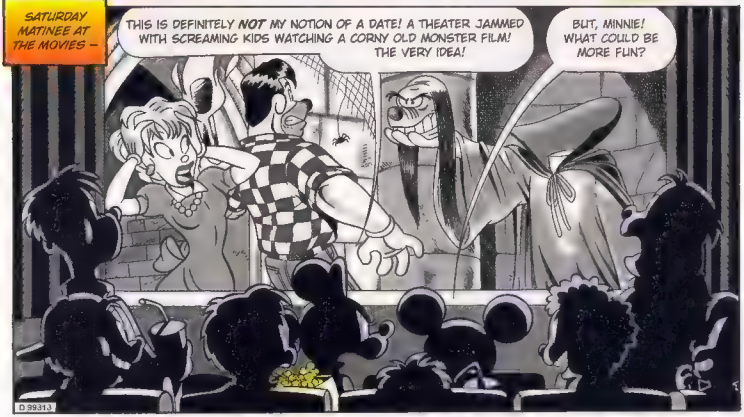
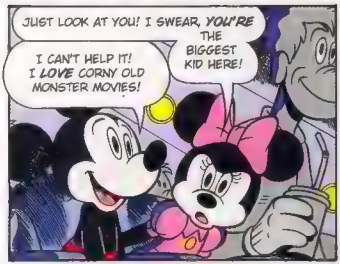
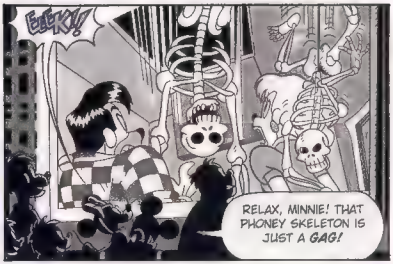
MICKEY MOUSE

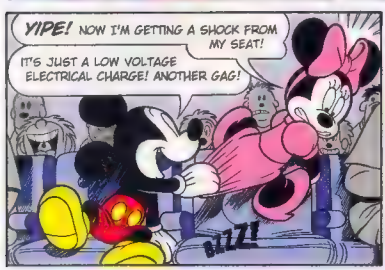
WEREWOLF WORRIES

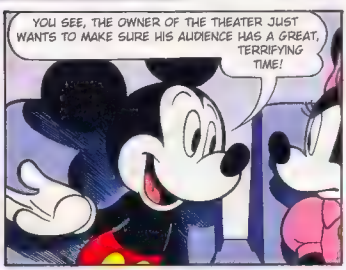
PART ONE


SATURDAY MATINEE AT THE MOVIES –
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT MY NOTION OF A DATE! A THEATER JAMMED WITH SCREAMING KIDS WATCHING A CORNY OLD MONSTER FILM! THE VERY IDEA!
BUT, MINNIE! WHAT COULD BE MORE FUN?
© 99313

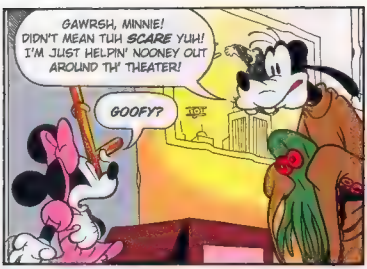


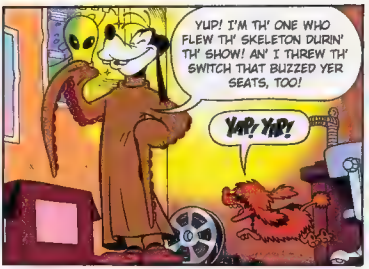


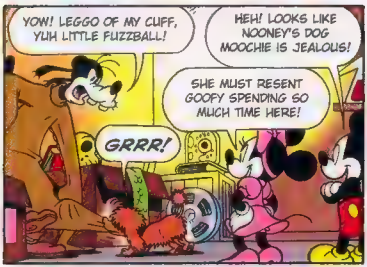


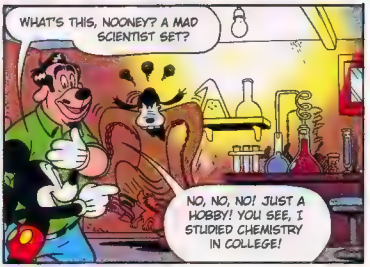


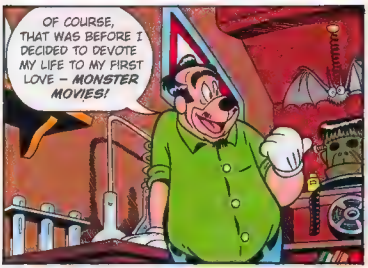
THE MATINEE ENDS –
RICKETTS' MONSTER MOVIE
I'M SORRY, MICKEY! I JUST COULDN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH MY INNER CHILD WITH ALL THOSE CHILDREN ON THE OUTSIDE JOSTLING ME!
THAT'S OKAY, MINNIE! HEY! LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO THE OWNER OF THE PLACE, NOONEY RICKETTS!
NOONEY'S DEDICATED HIMSELF TO REVIVING INTEREST IN OLD MONSTER MOVIES!
THAT'S RIGHT! I RESTORE THE FILMS AND FEATURE THEM EXCLUSIVELY IN MY THEATER!
THAT WAY, YOUNG AUDIENCES CAN ALWAYS DISCOVER THESE CREEPY CLASSICS!
BUT HOW DO YOU MAKE A LIVING SHOWING MONSTER MOVIES TO KIDS?
OH, THEY AREN'T JUST FOR KIDS! ADULTS COME TO SEE THEM, TOO! IN FACT, TONIGHT I'M SCREENING A CLASSIC... "NIGHT OF THE WEREWOLF"!
REMEMBER THE LEGEND? "THE BITE OF THE WEREWOLF WILL TRANSFORM ITS VICTIM INTO A WEREWOLF UNDER THE LIGHT OF A FULL MOON..."
ER, SHOULDN'T WE BE GOING?
IN A MINUTE, DOLL! FIRST, LET'S HAVE NOONEY SHOW US HIS BASEMENT WORKSHOP! IT'S FULL OF MOVIE PROPS, COSTUMES, POSTERS...
RIGHT THIS WAY!
AAAARRRGH!
EEEEEEEEK!

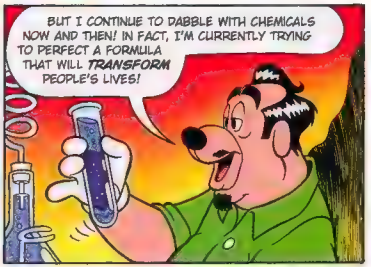

GAWRSH, MINNIE! DIDN'T MEAN TUH SCARE YUH! I'M JUST HELPIN' NOONEY OUT AROUND TH' THEATER!
GOOFY?

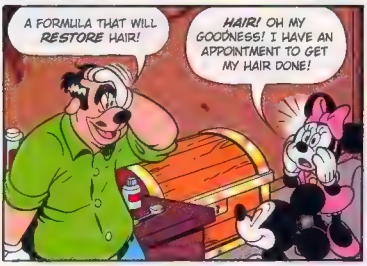

YUP! I'M TH' ONE WHO FLEW TH' SKELETON DURIN' TH' SHOW! AN' I THREW TH' SWITCH THAT BUZZED YER SEATS, TOO!
YAP! YAP!

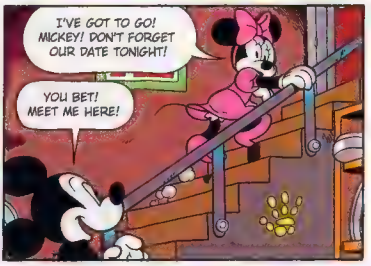

YOW! LEGGO OF MY CUFF, YUH LITTLE FUZZBALL!
HEH! LOOKS LIKE NOONEY'S DOG MOOCHIE IS JEALOUS!
SHE MUST RESENT GOOFY SPENDING SO MUCH TIME HERE!
GRRR!


WHAT'S THIS, NOONEY? A MAD SCIENTIST SET?
NO, NO, NO! JUST A HOBBY! YOU SEE, I STUDIED CHEMISTRY IN COLLEGE!


OF COURSE, THAT WAS BEFORE I DECIDED TO DEVOTE MY LIFE TO MY FIRST LOVE – MONSTER MOVIES!


BUT I CONTINUE TO DABBLE WITH CHEMICALS NOW AND THEN! IN FACT, I'M CURRENTLY TRYING TO PERFECT A FORMULA THAT WILL TRANSFORM PEOPLE'S LIVES!

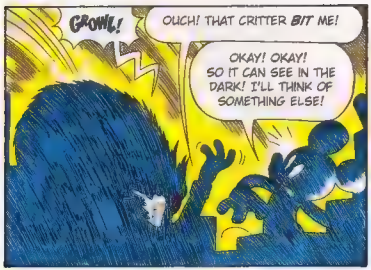

A FORMULA THAT WILL RESTORE HAIR!
HAIR! OH MY GOODNESS! I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT TO GET MY HAIR DONE!

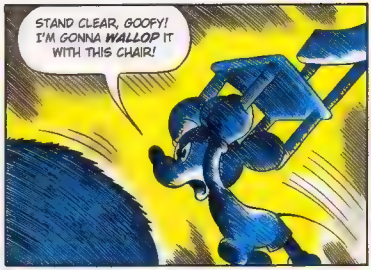

I'VE GOT TO GO! MICKEY! DON'T FORGET OUR DATE TONIGHT!
YOU BET! MEET ME HERE!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER—
DRAT! THE PROJECTOR BULB JUST BLEW OUT! GOOFY! CAN YOU FIND A REPLACEMENT?
I'LL GO WITH HIM!
THE SUN SINKS AS OUR BOYS TRY TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL! AT LAST—
WHO'DA FIGGERD FINDIN' A PART FER AN OBSOLETE 35MM PROJECTOR COULD TAKE SO LONG?
HANG ON, GOOFY! WHAT GIVES?
IT'S A MONSTER!
IT'S A WEREWOLF!
ARRROOOO!
GAWRSH, MICK! K'RECK ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT AIN'T THET A GENUINE WEREWOLF HOWLIN' AT TH' MOON ATOP NOONEY'S MARQUEE?!
MONSTER MOVIE HOUSE
NO! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

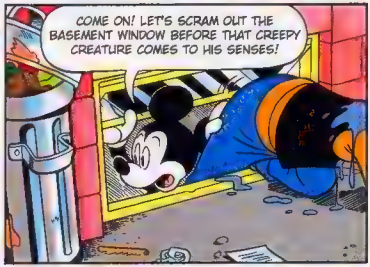
DON'T YOU GET IT, GOOFY? THAT'S NOONEY! WHAT A NUT!
HE'S TRYING TO GENERATE PUBLICITY FOR TONIGHT'S MOVIE! THERE'S JUST ONE LITTLE PROBLEM!
MOVIE HOUSE
THE STUNT'S NOT WORKING! PEOPLE ARE RUNNING AWAY FROM THE THEATER! NOT TOWARD IT!
HOWAAAOOO!
WHOA!
WHAT THE HECK? IT COULDN'T BE! NOONEY ISN'T REALLY A...
WEREWOLF! YIPE! GOOFY!
RRRR!
DON'T LOOK NOW, PAL, BUT THERE'S A SUPERNATURAL BEAST BREATHIN' DOWN YER NECK!
HIGHTAIL IT INTO THE THEATER! I'VE GOT A FEELING WE JUST LEFT THE REALM OF FILM FANTASY!

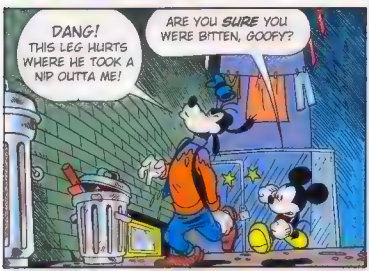
THAT MANGY MONSTER'S NIPPIN' AT OUR HEELS! GOT ANY IDEAS?
HOW ABOUT WE TRY AND SLOW HIM DOWN?!
LET'S SEE IF THIS TAKES THE WIND OUT OF HIS SAILS!
CRAAASH!
ARRGGH!
EEEP! DON'T LOOK LIKE HE'S BIG ON POPCORN! NOW WHUT?!
THE BASEMENT WORKSHOP! QUICK!
THERE! WE'VE BOLTED THE DOOR! MAYBE THIS'LL GIVE US A CHANCE TO CATCH OUR BREATH!
RRRRRR!
RRRAAAARROO!
KA-RUNCH!!
LILP! MAYBE NOT!
YOW!!!
SNAARL!
CHOMP!
FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD, MICKEY! DO SOMETHIN', WILL YA? GLUB! THIS SPOOKY POOCH IS ABOUT TUH POLINCE!
SWAAASH!
HANG IN THERE, GOOFY! I'M DOUSING THE LIGHTS! IT'LL TAKE A WHILE FOR HIM TO GET USED TO THE CHANGE!

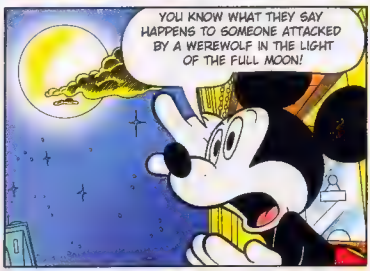

GROWL!
OUCH! THAT CRITTER BIT ME!
OKAY! OKAY! SO IT CAN SEE IN THE DARK! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE!

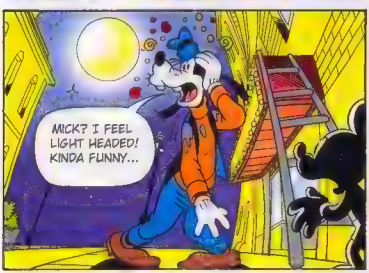

STAND CLEAR, GOOFY! I'M GONNA WALLOP IT WITH THIS CHAIR!

CRASH!
AIIEEE!
BINGO! I GOT HIM!


COME ON! LET'S SCRAM OUT THE BASEMENT WINDOW BEFORE THAT CREEPY CREATURE COMES TO HIS SENSES!


DANG! THIS LEG HURTS WHERE HE TOOK A NIP OUTTA ME!
ARE YOU SURE YOU WERE BITTEN, GOOFY?


YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY HAPPENS TO SOMEONE ATTACKED BY A WEREWOLF IN THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON!


MICK? I FEEL LIGHT HEADED! KINDA FUNNY...

OMIGOSH!

MUH... MUH... MICK? WHUT'S HAPPENIN'?
I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE LITTLE BIT...
SOMETHIN' AIN'T RIGHT HERE...
HOLY HOPPING MUDPUPPIES! I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING...
HYAROOOOOO!
GOOFY'S BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED, BONIFIDE WEREWOLF!

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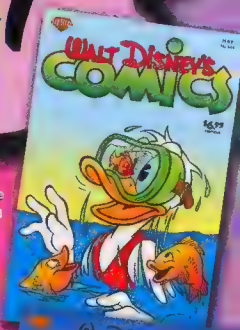

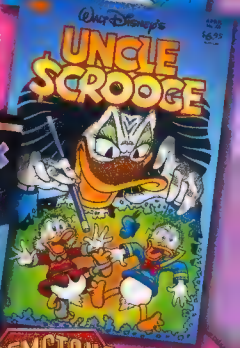

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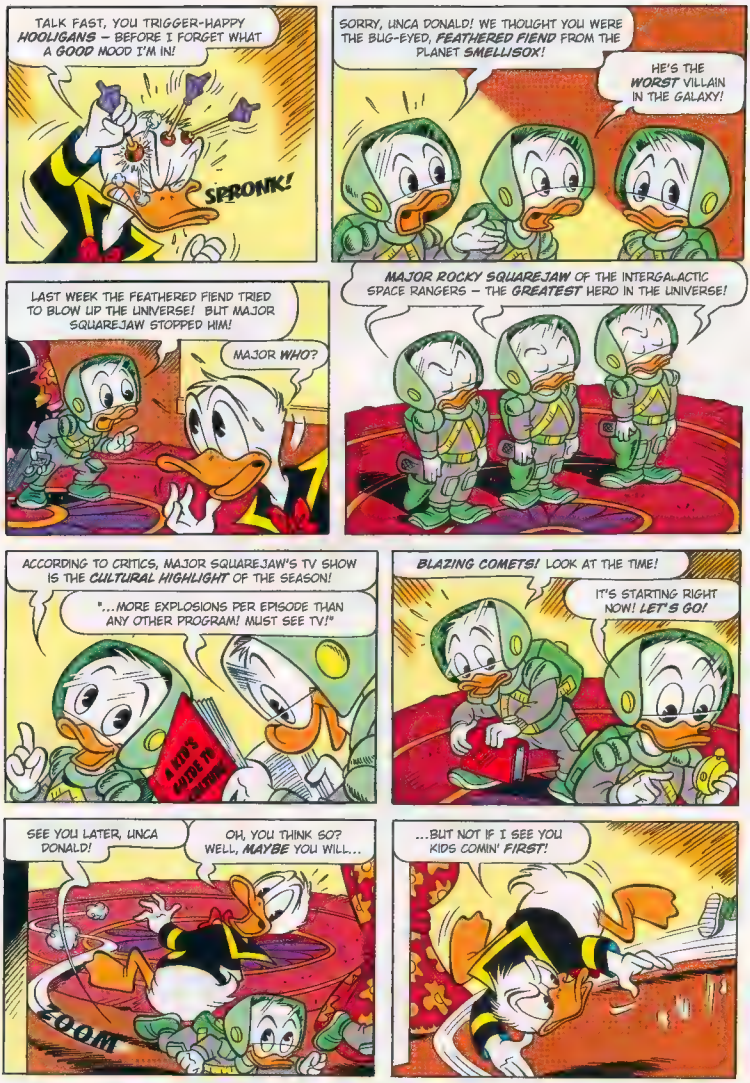
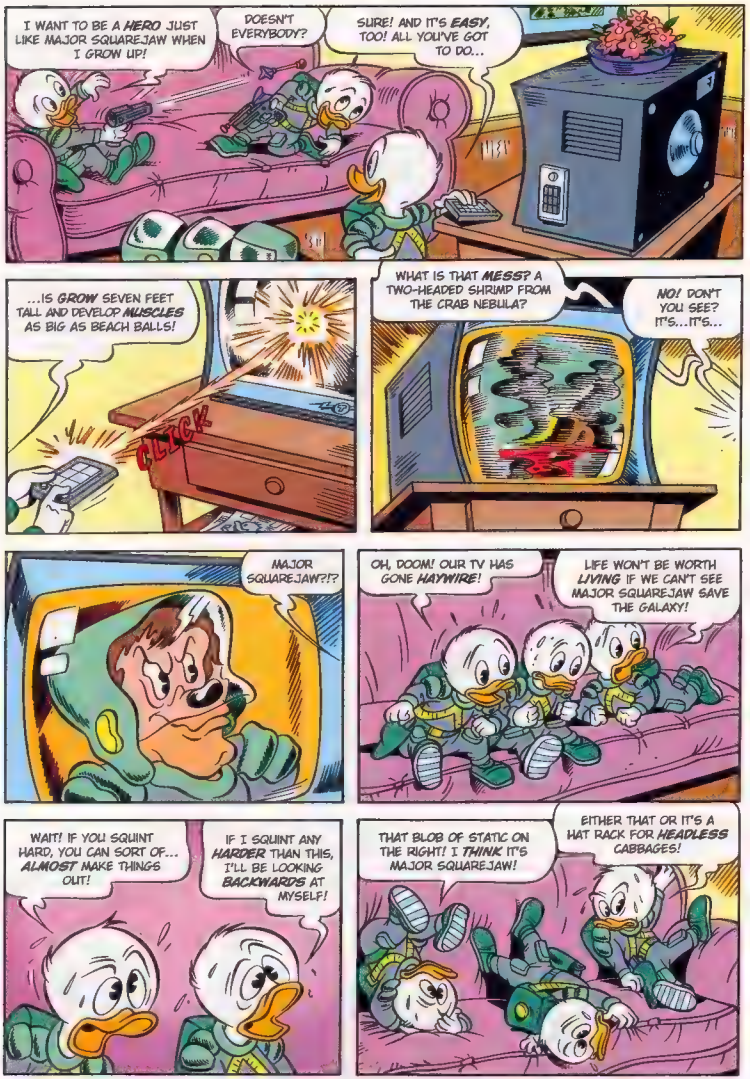
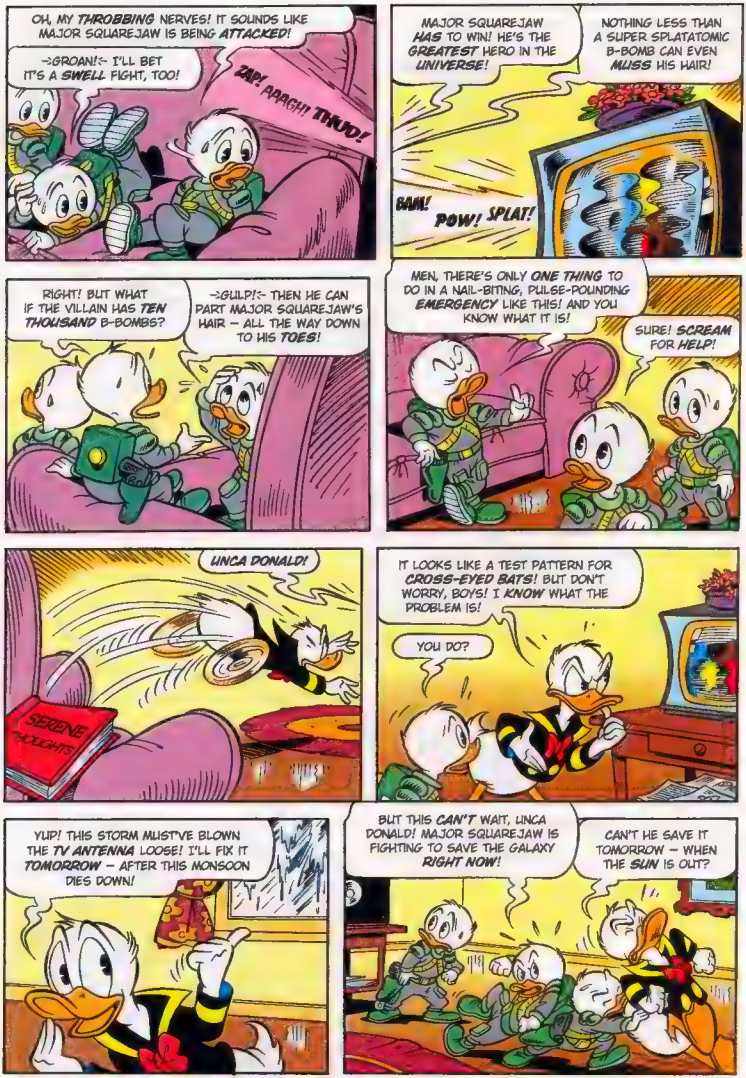
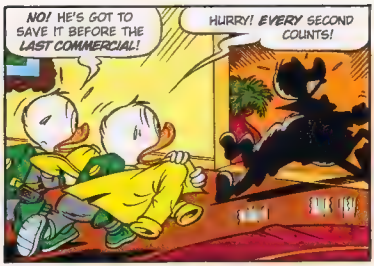
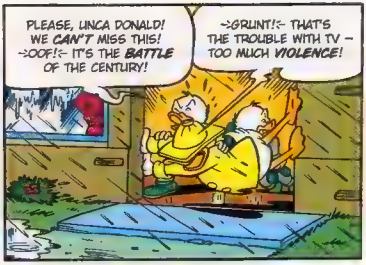
SOME DAYS IT'S BEST TO JUST STAY INSIDE - SAFE AND WARM! AND BROTHER, IS THIS EVER ONE OF THOSE DAYS!
-:BRR!:- I WOULDN'T GO OUT INTO THAT SOGGY MESS FOR A MOUNTAIN OF GOLD AND A TRUCKLOAD OF CARAMEL FUDGE SUNDAES!
D 97078
I'M STAYIN' INSIDE WITH A GOOD BOOK — DRINKIN' HOT COCOA AND SOAKIN' UP THE SOOTHIN' SOUNDS OF...
...DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY?!
FIRE!
BLAST THE BEAST!
SPLAT! SPLAT! SPLAT!
OF COURSE, SOME DOMICILES ARE LESS TRANQUIL THAN OTHERS!
UH-OH!

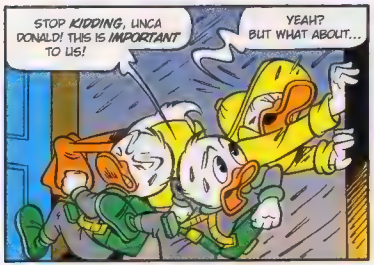

TALK FAST, YOU TRIGGER-HAPPY HOOLIGANS — BEFORE I FORGET WHAT A GOOD MOOD I'M IN!
SPRONK!
SORRY, UNCA DONALD! WE THOUGHT YOU WERE THE BUG-EYED, FEATHERED FIEND FROM THE PLANET SMELLISOX!
HE'S THE WORST VILLAIN IN THE GALAXY!
LAST WEEK THE FEATHERED FIEND TRIED TO BLOW UP THE UNIVERSE! BUT MAJOR SQUAREJAW STOPPED HIM!
MAJOR WHO?
MAJOR ROCKY SQUAREJAW OF THE INTERGALACTIC SPACE RANGERS — THE GREATEST HERO IN THE UNIVERSE!
ACCORDING TO CRITICS, MAJOR SQUAREJAW'S TV SHOW IS THE CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT OF THE SEASON!
"...MORE EXPLOSIONS PER EPISODE THAN ANY OTHER PROGRAM! MUST SEE TV!"
A KID'S GUIDE TO CULTURE
BLAZING COMETS! LOOK AT THE TIME!
IT'S STARTING RIGHT NOW! LET'S GO!
SEE YOU LATER, UNCA DONALD!
OH, YOU THINK SO? WELL, MAYBE YOU WILL...
ZOOM
...BUT NOT IF I SEE YOU KIDS COMIN' FIRST!

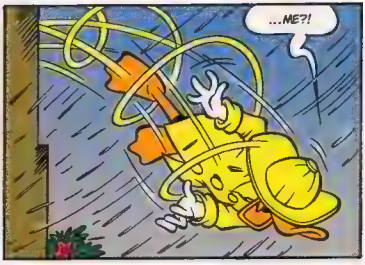

I WANT TO BE A HERO JUST LIKE MAJOR SQUAREJAW WHEN I GROW UP!
DOESN'T EVERYBODY?
SURE! AND IT'S EASY, TOO! ALL YOU'VE GOT TO DO...
...IS GROW SEVEN FEET TALL AND DEVELOP MUSCLES AS BIG AS BEACH BALLS!
CLICK
WHAT IS THAT MESS? A TWO-HEADED SHRIMP FROM THE CRAB NEBULA?
NO! DON'T YOU SEE? IT'S...IT'S...
MAJOR SQUAREJAW?!?
OH, DOOM! OUR TV HAS GONE HAYWIRE!
LIFE WON'T BE WORTH LIVING IF WE CAN'T SEE MAJOR SQUAREJAW SAVE THE GALAXY!
WAIT! IF YOU SQUINT HARD, YOU CAN SORT OF... ALMOST MAKE THINGS OUT!
IF I SQUINT ANY HARDER THAN THIS, I'LL BE LOOKING BACKWARDS AT MYSELF!
THAT BLOB OF STATIC ON THE RIGHT! I THINK IT'S MAJOR SQUAREJAW!
EITHER THAT OR IT'S A HAT RACK FOR HEADLESS CABBAGES!

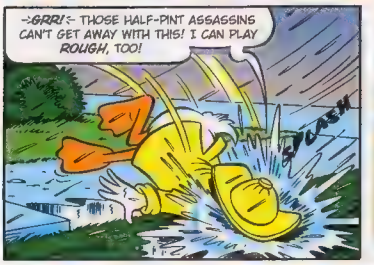

OH, MY THROBBING NERVES! IT SOUNDS LIKE MAJOR SQUAREJAW IS BEING ATTACKED!
:-)GROAN!:- I'LL BET IT'S A SWELL FIGHT, TOO!
ZAP! AAAGH!! THUD!
MAJOR SQUAREJAW HAS TO WIN! HE'S THE GREATEST HERO IN THE UNIVERSE!
NOTHING LESS THAN A SUPER SPLATATOMIC B-BOMB CAN EVEN MUSS HIS HAIR!
BAM! POW! SPLAT!
RIGHT! BUT WHAT IF THE VILLAIN HAS TEN THOUSAND B-BOMBS?
:-)GULP!:- THEN HE CAN PART MAJOR SQUAREJAW'S HAIR — ALL THE WAY DOWN TO HIS TOES!
MEN, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO IN A NAIL-BITING, PULSE-POUNDING EMERGENCY LIKE THIS! AND YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS!
SURE! SCREAM FOR HELP!
UNCA DONALD!
SERENE THOUGHTS
IT LOOKS LIKE A TEST PATTERN FOR CROSS-EYED BATS! BUT DON'T WORRY, BOYS! I KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!
YOU DO?
YUP! THIS STORM MUST'VE BLOWN THE TV ANTENNA LOOSE! I'LL FIX IT TOMORROW — AFTER THIS MONSOON DIES DOWN!
BUT THIS CAN'T WAIT, UNCA DONALD! MAJOR SQUAREJAW IS FIGHTING TO SAVE THE GALAXY RIGHT NOW!
CAN'T HE SAVE IT TOMORROW — WHEN THE SUN IS OUT?

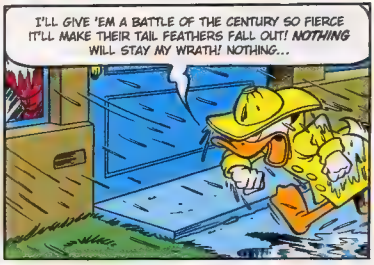

NO! HE'S GOT TO SAVE IT BEFORE THE LAST COMMERCIAL!
HURRY! EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

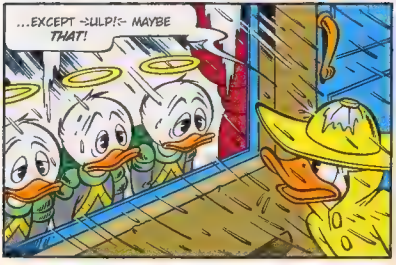

PLEASE, LINCA DONALD! WE CAN'T MISS THIS! ~OOF!~ IT'S THE BATTLE OF THE CENTURY!
~GRUNT!~ THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH TV – TOO MUCH VIOLENCE!

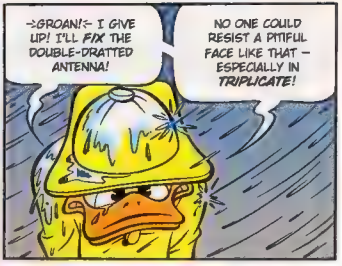

STOP KIDDING, LINCA DONALD! THIS IS IMPORTANT TO US!
YEAH? BUT WHAT ABOUT...


...ME?!


~GRR!~ THOSE HALF-PINT ASSASSINS CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS! I CAN PLAY ROUGH, TOO!
SPLASH


I'LL GIVE 'EM A BATTLE OF THE CENTURY SO FIERCE IT'LL MAKE THEIR TAIL FEATHERS FALL OUT! NOTHING WILL STAY MY WRATH! NOTHING...

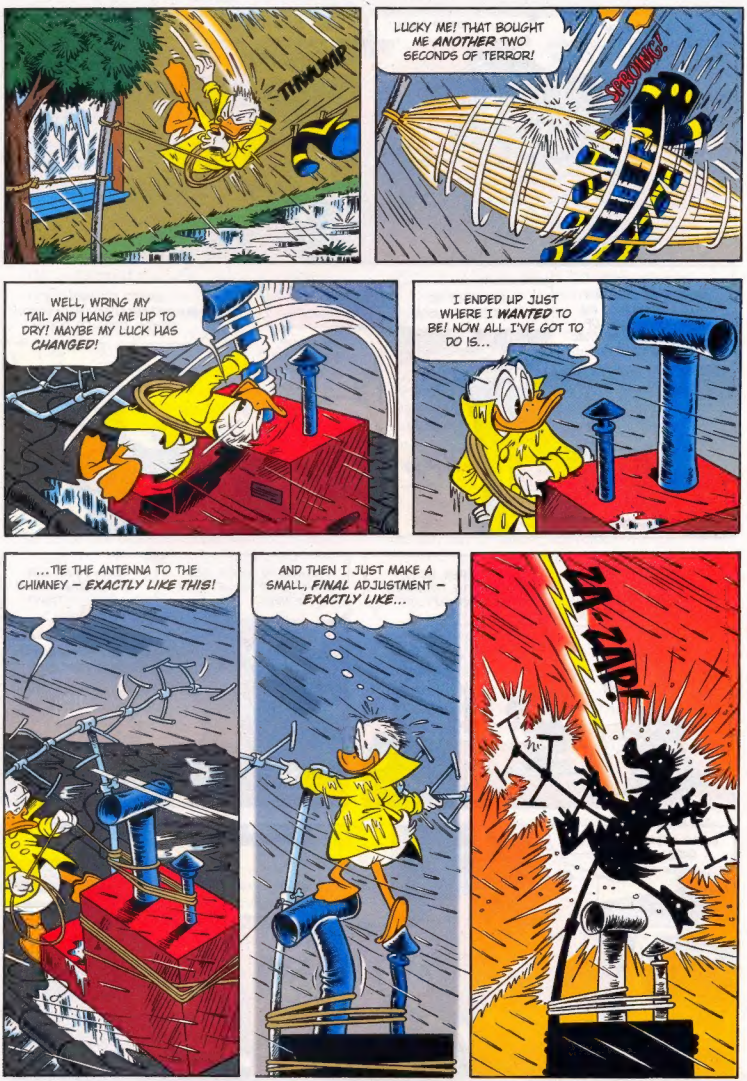

...EXCEPT ~ULP!~ MAYBE THAT!


~GROAN!~ I GIVE UP! I'LL FIX THE DOUBLE-DRATTED ANTENNA!
NO ONE COULD RESIST A PITIFUL FACE LIKE THAT – ESPECIALLY IN TRIPLICATE!

DID IT WORK?
I THINK SO!
QUICK! TURN OFF THE HALOS! I'M BURNING UP!
GOOD GRIEF! THE THINGS A KID HAS TO DO JUST TO WATCH A LITTLE TV!
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH GROWN-UPS! THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND...
CLICK
"...THAT SOME THINGS ARE A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!"
DRAT! THIS WIND IS MAKING THE LADDER SHAKE LIKE A HULA DANCER WITH A NERVOUS TICK! AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT...
EXCEPT TO HOLD ON TIGHT AND HOPE FOR THE BEST!
CRACK!
THAT BRANCH! IT'S KNOCKED THE LADDER OFF BALANCE! IT'S STARTING TO SPIN AROUND!
HELP! HELP! RUNAWAY LADDER!
SOMEBODY STOP THIS WHIRLWIND!
I WANT TO GET OFF!

I'D TRY TO STAND UP — IF ONLY I KNEW WHICH WAY UP IS!
OH, WELL! I'M PROBABLY SAFER STICKING CLOSE TO THE GROUND — AT LEAST FOR NOW!
WELL, STANDING AROUND HERE =GRUNT!= ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT ANY SHORTER!
=GULP!= HAS THIS HOUSE EVER BEEN THIS TALL BEFORE?
IT'S TIME I CLIMB THIS BUDDING SKYSCRAPER — BEFORE IT GETS ANY BIGGER!
=GASP!= MAYBE THIS HOUSE REALLY IS GETTING TALLER! EITHER THAT, OR...
...THE LADDER'S SINKIN' IN THE MUD!

MEANWHILE, AN EVEN MORE TRAGIC TRAGEDY IS TAKING PLACE —
THINGS ARE GETTING WORSE! NOW EVEN THE SOUND HAS GONE BAD!
DISASTER AND DOOM! WE'LL MISS ALL THE EXPLOSIONS!
SWAP
CRACK
BUZZ
-:GROAN!:- WE'LL MISS MORE THAN THAT — UNLESS THAT ANTENNA'S FIXED SOON!
IT ISN'T FAIR! THE UNIVERSE COULD BE DESTROYED AT ANY MOMENT...
...AND WHO DO WE HAVE TO DEPEND ON?
UNCA DONALD!
THANK GOODNESS FOR STRONG GLITTERS!
TOO BAD I CAN'T SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT THESE SHINGLES! SOME OF 'EM NEED TO BE RENAILED!
LIKE THAT ONE!
I'LL HAVE TO GET AROUND TO NAILING IT DOWN ONE OF THESE DAYS!
ASSUMING, OF COURSE, I LIVE THROUGH THE NEXT TWO SECONDS!


THWUMP
LUCKY ME! THAT BOUGHT ME ANOTHER TWO SECONDS OF TERROR!
SPROING!
WELL, WRING MY TAIL AND HANG ME UP TO DRY! MAYBE MY LUCK HAS CHANGED!
I ENDED UP JUST WHERE I WANTED TO BE! NOW ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS...
...TIE THE ANTENNA TO THE CHIMNEY – EXACTLY LIKE THIS!
AND THEN I JUST MAKE A SMALL, FINAL ADJUSTMENT – EXACTLY LIKE...
ZA-ZAP!

SCREAMIN' BUZZ BOMBS! THAT LIGHTNING BOLT STRUCK AWFUL CLOSE TO HOME!
WHO CARES? LOOK!
THE TV'S FIXED!
ZAP
WATTA' BATTLE! MAJOR SQUAREJAW ALONE – AGAINST AN ENTIRE PLANET OF POWER-CRAZED DENTAL HYGIENISTS!
THEY'RE OUT TO FLOSS THE GALAXY!
ZAP
LATER, BUT NOT MUCH –
HURRAY! THE GALAXY IS SAVED!
MAJOR SQUAREJAW DISINTEGRATED THEIR DEADLY DENTAL DRILL OF DOOM!
I'LL BET MAJOR SQUAREJAW'S THE TOUGHEST HERO WHO EVER WAS!
OF COURSE, HE IS! HE'S GOT THE TOUGHEST JOB, DOESN'T HE?
SURE! HE SAVES THE UNIVERSE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK!
COULD ANY JOB BE TOUGHER THAN THAT?
JUST ONE, BOYS!
BEING A PARENT TO YOU THREE KIDS!

When I was younger I never paid heed to Gladstone's calls for letters to their letter column. I always thought, "What's the point? They have to satisfy so many people, where is there room for me? Well, now that I'm older, I've changed my mind, and figure if I never speak up, I'll never be heard. So here I go.

In response to questions and ideas posed by you and my fellow comic-readers, I would not like to see solo episodes of either José Carioca or Panchito. I am interested in Ducks, specifically Donald Duck, and for the most part see everyone else as a support character. That said, however, new stories by either Don Rosa or William Van Horn involving the three could be quite enjoyable. Certainly Rosa's tale was terrific.

On the subject of Mickey Mouse, aside from Gottfredson, I've never been a fan. With all due respect to Paul Murry *et al*, I found it a chore to read their stories. This new series "Shambor," by Pat and Carol McGreal, is pretty good, however. The dialogue, the character depth, the scope of plot, are all very well conceived. So if we are going to have Mickey Mouse, let's have their Mickey Mouse.

Back to ducks, Pat & Shelly Block are keepers, as far as I am concerned. Their stories are superb. On another note, what do you think about putting one of the rarer Carl Barks or Tony Strobl stories in *Donald Duck and Friends?* Perhaps as a marketing device, with the Blocks and McGreals as follow-ups? I like to see new talent, especially theirs, but I also like the comfort and familiarity of the older stories I read from my Dad's comics as a kid. Just an idea to kick around.

Having said all this, I am concerned by John Clark's statement in *DD&F* 314: "Maybe you'd like us to scrap the title entirely." Is that a Gemstone plan? Say it ain't so! I think it's a good comic even if none of my suggestions are utilized; I certainly don't want it to disappear. Please keep it.

I look forward to my next issues.

—Robert Hutchings
via email

As you can see, Robert, you stand a really good chance of getting published if you write. It may take a few months, though.

With regard to José and Panchito, we've looked at quite a few of their solo stories and the fact is most them are just not very good. A lot of readers seem to want to see them, though, so we'll print some of the better ones on an infrequent basis.

As for Barks appearing in these pages, be of good cheer. Starting next month his 10-page Donald stories will become a regular feature in DD&F. *Sadly, Tony Strobl will be somewhat more difficult, as we don't have a good source for his material at this time.*

And to allay your fears about our cancelling DD&F, *it ain't so. We hope to keep the title around for a long time. I was just engaging in a bit of hyperbole.*

I want to congratulate you guys on the conclusion to the Shambor trilogy in *DD&F* 314. The series has made me think about the character of Mickey Mouse in a whole new way. While Donald and company are still my favorite characters, I read Mickey stories with more interest and anticipation since the Shambor series started. I'm glad Gemstone is publishing stories showing Mickey in a bigger variety of situations than may have been the case in past years of Disney comics. Pat and Carol McGreal and Cesar Feroli have produced a story that really makes you care about the fate of the characters. They're a team that I wouldn't mind seeing together on more than just the Shambor stories. The fantasy aspects of the series made me feel as if I were reading a fantasy novel. While that's not the only way to make a good Mickey story, it proves to be a good one in this case. The way "Showdown in Shambor" part 2 ended, I can't wait for the fourth story in the series.

As for the Shambor series becoming a graphic novel, if you could get it distributed into bookstores, etc., I think it would be a great way to introduce new readers to Disney comics, especially Mickey stories.

In closing, I'd like to comment on your Letters pages. At the end of every letter, it says "via email." It makes things seem so sterile compared to the days when people sent actual letters and you could see what parts of the world readers came from. So at the end of this email, I'm saying where I'm from and I hope other people who email you will do the same in the future.

—Derek Smith
Forsyth, GA

Actually, most of our correspondents do include their address, even in emails. In this age of worries over identity theft and junk mail, however, I felt many people might prefer that information to be withheld. But I've included your city and state here, Derek, since you prefer it. What do the rest of you want? City and state information or not?

—John Clark

Letters selected for publication may be edited for length and/or content.
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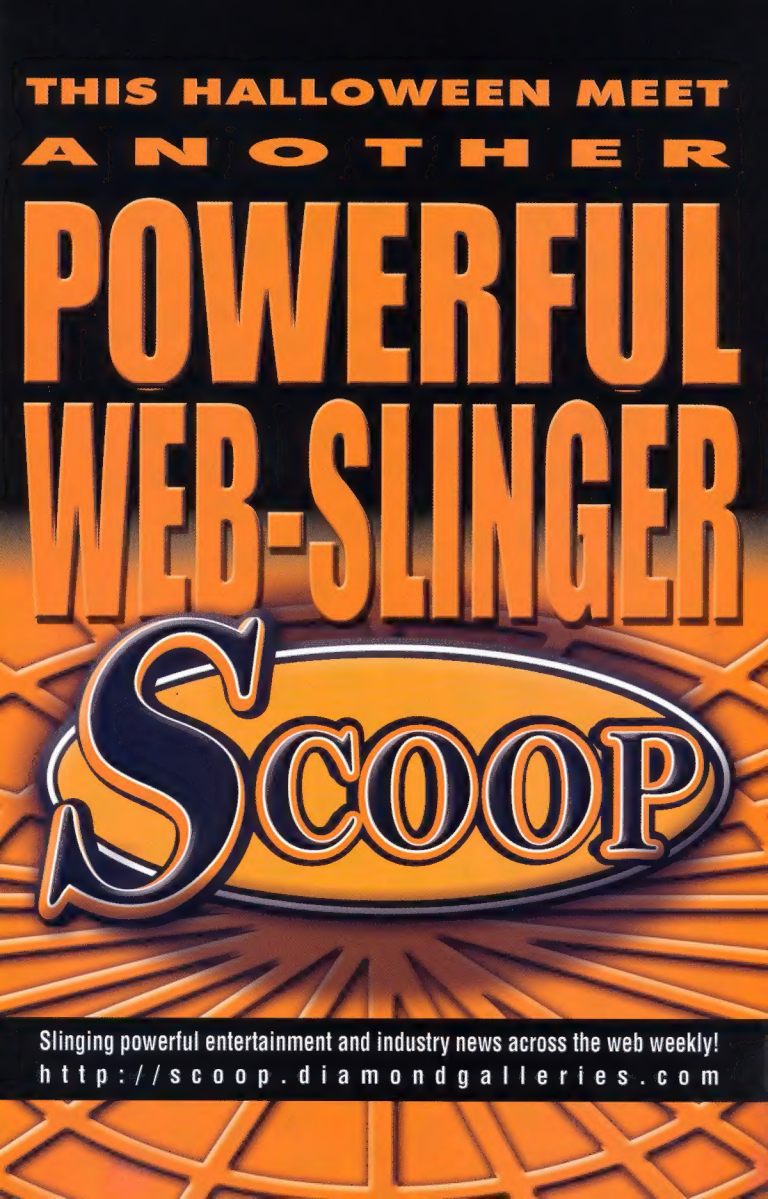
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